

In the third embodiment of Sato's photographing lens, which is shown in Fig. 5, the first lens group has a positive refractive power, the second lens group has a negative refractive power, and the third lens group has a positive refractive power. Thus, the second lens group of Sato's third embodiment does not have a positive refractive power, as set forth in claim 1.

Thus, in Sato's photographing lens, one of the second and third lens groups has a negative refractive power. Sato does not disclose or suggest that both the second and third lens groups have positive refractive powers, as set forth in claim 1.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because Sato does not disclose or suggest all of the elements of claim 1. Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 14 depend on claim 1 and are therefore also patentable for at least the same reasons.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the aforementioned reasons, claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 14 of the present invention are patentable over the prior art. Based on the foregoing, the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By Denise L. Poy (54,781) for

Registration No.: 53,480

DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. Box 5257
New York, New York 10150-5257
(212) 527-7700
(212) 753-6237 (Fax)
Attorneys/Agents For Applicants